



# Whitehorse Manor Junior School

## Newsletter Thursday 20th July



**D**ear Parent's and Carers, Another academic year over and a long summer holiday to enjoy! I hope that the weather is good to us and we can all relax, refresh and come back raring to go! Thank you for all your kindness and support this year. We wish our Year 6 the very best of luck as they go off out into the world and look forward to seeing the rest of you all again in September.

**Parent Code of Conduct:** I have been asked by MACs to address their concerns over a few incidents that have arisen between parents on the playground in the past year. If your child has had a problem with another child, please don't approach that child. Come and see the class teacher or a member of the senior leadership team to address the issue. No parent should ever tackle a problem directly with a child. All parents are fiercely protective of their children and even a well-meaning comment can cause offence. Remember that we are part of the school community and be polite to each other, even when the playground is crowded. Please ensure that your language is acceptable enough to be heard by children. We are all here for the children, and the children need to feel safe at all times. Leave disputes at home and help to make our playground a safe and welcoming place at the end of the school day.

**Cyber safety reminder:** Just a reminder, as the school holidays are upon us, that you need to know what your children are getting up to online. I still deal with issues where parents are amazed to find out what their children have been saying to each other, long into the night, when they thought that they were in bed. Be vigilant! Children should not sleep in the same room as their phone or tablets or any device where they can get online. **The virtual world is not safe** and there are individuals who pretend to be what they are not and put your child at risk. Check your child's device and any social networking accounts regularly and make sure that you know exactly who they are in contact with and that you are happy with that contact being made.

**Food allergies and medicines in school:** Our catering company, Harrisons, have been busy contacting parents if their child's school record states that they have a food allergy. They need to meet with such parents in order to complete a waiver as part of their food safety policy. We have discovered, however, that there are children with a food allergy listed, where the child has no such allergy, or it was a brief concern when they were an infant, or it is just actually a food that they don't like. I eat the school lunches every day, and I often hear a child say: But I eat cheese at home? Only to be told that their record states that they are lactose intolerant. Please help the office and Harrison's by keeping your child's food record up to date. Feel free to list foods that they don't like, but only tell us about an allergy if there is one – most children with a medically diagnosed food allergy will also have a 'epipen' kept in school. Also, if your child has medication in school (such as an epipen or an inhaler) remember to check that it is in date and still relevant and useful to their medical needs.

**Summer reading:** Reading is still an area where we need to do more work. Help keep your child reading this summer by participating in reading events such as the summer reading challenge 'Animal Agents' at Croydon libraries including the Thornton Heath Library. I would also like to invite children to bring in or email a photo of them reading in unusual places over the holiday, for a reading celebration display next term.

- Check the school bags for any leaflets about holiday activities and homework.
- Children return to school on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

# Have a happy holiday!

Ms N. Achenbach—Head of School  
Whitehorse Manor Junior School